

## SENATE—Thursday, July 12, 2001

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Presiding Officer, the Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, the width and depth and height of Your love is beyond our understanding but never beyond our acceptance. Out of love for us You offer Your faithfulness, guidance, and strength. Then You give us work to do to accomplish Your plans through us.

So bless the Senators and all of us privileged to work for and with them with an acute awareness of our responsibility to You for what we do with the opportunities that You give us.

In response, we consecrate our lives and our work to You; endure them with Your enabling power. We will cooperate with You, seeking Your guidance and obeying You. And we will anticipate Your interventions to help us when we need You to inspire our thinking, strengthen our resolve, and assure success in our efforts for Your glory.

Today we ask Your special blessing for Jeri Thomson as she is sworn in as the Secretary of the Senate. Be with her, guide her, and direct her.

Now Lord, bring on the day; we are ready. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore [Mr. BYRD].

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, July 12, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2001—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a 3-hour period for debate prior to the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the consideration of H.R. 333, with 2 hours to be under the control of the Senator from Minnesota, Mr. WELLSTONE, and 1 hour to be equally divided under the control of the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee or their designees.

The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A motion to proceed to the bill (H.R. 333) to amend title 11, United States Code, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as the Chair has announced, we are now going to resume consideration of the motion to proceed to the House Bankruptcy Reform Act. There are 3 hours of debate, divided as the chair has announced, prior to a cloture vote on the motion to proceed. Following consideration of this bankruptcy debate, under the previous consent order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Interior Appropriations Act with a vote in relation to the Nelson of Florida amendment. So at 12 o'clock there will be one vote, and at approximately 12:20 there will be another.

The majority leader, Senator DASCHLE, has asked me to announce that he has every hope that we can complete this bill—and the two managers last night indicated they believed they were very close to being able to complete the bill—at a reasonable time early this afternoon or this evening. If we cannot, we will work into the evening. And if we cannot finish it then, we will have to come back tomorrow. There is a lot to do. We hope we can finish this tomorrow. There are many things that both the majority and minority would like to do tomorrow if we have the Interior bill out of the way.

Mr. President, at 11:30, as has been announced, the Senate will swear in the new Secretary of the Senate, Jeri Thomson, who has really dedicated her

whole life to the U.S. Senate. I know for me it is a special occasion, as I am sure it is for anyone who knows Jeri. So I look forward to that and to a fruitful debate today.

I ask if there is anything from the minority, they be allowed to speak now.

The Senator from Minnesota is here. I did not see him in the Chamber earlier. He has his 2 hours.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Who yields time?

The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank the Chair. Mr. President, if I could get the attention of the Senator from Alabama.

Does the Senator from Alabama—does the minority need the floor right now to do some things? If so, I will be pleased to wait; otherwise, I am ready to go.

Mr. SESSIONS. No. I think we are here on bankruptcy and are glad to go forward.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, normally I do not do it this way. I try not to rely too much on notes. But I want to try to be as detailed and as thorough as I can because what I am asking the Senate to do today is to step back from the brink and decline to go to conference with the House on the so-called bankruptcy reform.

I am going to be in this Chamber a number of times over the next week, maybe over the next several weeks. There is a lot that I want to say. There is a lot I think I should say as a Senator from Minnesota because I think Congress is about to make—or is headed toward—a very grave mistake.

So I will not attempt to say it all today. What I will do, however, is to speak, at least in a broad way, about why I feel so strongly in the negative about this bill.

I ask unanimous consent that several pages I have of titles of editorials about the bankruptcy bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### EDITORIALS AGAINST THE BANKRUPTCY BILL

"Bad Timing on the Bankruptcy Bill," Robert Samuelson, the Washington Post, March 14, 2001.

"A Bad Bankruptcy Bill," San Francisco Chronicle, March 15, 2001.

"Reform Choice for Mr. Bush," the Washington Post, February 19, 2001.

"A Debt Bill Bankrupt of Decency," the Chicago Sun Times, March 15, 2001.

"Quid Pro Quo," the Arizona Daily Star, March 3, 2001.

"Deeper Hole for Debtors," Los Angeles Times, March 2, 2001.

"Business Dictated Bankruptcy Law," the New York Times, March 16, 2001.